Upgradation of Lucknow Airport

2839. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the Lucknow (Amausi) and Amritsar (Rajasansi) airports into ultra modern airports;

(b) if so, whether the work thereon has been held up; if so, the details of the projects and at what stage it has been held up; and

(c) the progress made thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In respect of Lucknow airport, extension of runway upto 9000 feet has been completed and expansion and modernization of terminal building is planned. Commissioning of Category II approach lighting system is held up due to non-shifting of nearby village forming obstruction to the project.

As regards Amritsar airport, the construction work has been resumed and is likely to be completed by October, 2005. However, a portion of the Terminal Building is proposed to be commissioned by end of August, 2005 to provide immediate relief to the arriving passengers. The project is likely to be completed by October, 2005.

Effect of Poaching of Pilots

2840. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the informal 'No Poaching' agreement reached between public sector and private sector airlines is working as expected;

(b) whether both Indian Airlines and Alliance Airways are feeling the crunch of pilot shortage and whether of late, most of the departure schedules have gone away;

(c) what contingency measures are planned by the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation to prevent such abrupt exit of the crew; and